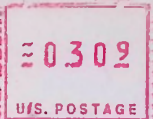
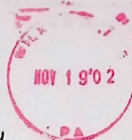




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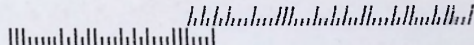
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PRESORT
FIRST CLASS



Mrs. Norman Mailer
627 Commercial St
Provincetown, MA
02657

02657+1723 01



Dear Norman,

November 18, 2002

I thought I had better send you another copy of the description of ENGLISH 397: NORMAN MAILER SEMINAR, and present you with some options to consider at your leisure. The description is enclosed. By the way, I believe you were right about not giving the twelve students a signed copy of *The Naked and the Dead*. Let them first prove their critical mettle. I thought about the following options during the trip back yesterday. It rained all the way and there was a lot of fog in the valleys, but the weather got me thinking.

There are perhaps 60-80 letters from you to various correspondents—friends, editors, translator, etc.—bearing on the serial publication of *An American Dream* and the Dial Press revision. The inclusive dates are fall 1963 through the end of 1965. These letters speak to the novel itself, but also the risks of serial publication, reviews and reviewers, a possible movie version and (to Yamanishi mainly) comment on specific characters and episodes. There is a good deal of repetition, of course, as you spell out to perhaps 30 individuals your plans and responses, but I judge that 20-30 of the letters, with some explanatory notes, could be assembled into a readable, interesting sequence. Now, almost 40 years later, the letters comprise a framework of elucidation. My introduction would give general context and note where you were in your career. A preface from you would be great, but not necessary.

My original plan, as I explained to you earlier, was to give each student a copy of the final collection of letters as a course souvenir. The students would do the necessary research under my direction—identifying people, places and any unexplained references. They would collate versions of the letters, seek out references to various passages and so on (you would read a penultimate draft and veto anything you wanted, entire letters perhaps). This will be excellent, unique editorial experience for them and will stand them in good stead if and when they go on to grad school or work in publishing. The university print shop could print up an edition of 25 copies, with a cheap binding. I'd send you half the remainder, and keep the rest for myself and for others: Lucid, Leeds, Whalen-Bridge. None of the copies would be sold and the edition would carry a "NOT FOR SALE" notice and a clear copyright message so that reproduction elsewhere would be felonious.

At some point over the past month I began to think about the possibility of another edition, which could follow or supersede the one outlined above. I discussed the numbers with some friends and book dealers and they confirmed my plan in its essentials. I'd like to propose a limited edition of 110 copies, with an additional 25 author's/editor's copies (with a copy to each student, leaving 13 for us).

The edition would be either 64 or 80 pages in length, on fine paper, nicely bound (hard cover only), and would sell for \$150. Total income: \$16,500. Total costs: printing would be about \$30/copy or \$4050; advertising would run about \$1500; secretarial help for formatting and inputting another \$1,000. The profit, assuming a sell-out, would be just shy of \$10,000. Remembering our limited edition scheme of a couple of years back,

p.2/Mailer letters

I propose a 50/50 split with you. Neither of us will get rich on this edition, but it is not that kind of project. It is mainly to celebrate and forward your work, and secondarily, for the students. And it will enhance my reputation as a Mailer editor.

If the edition is a great success, a second edition could be printed. But I rather doubt it; all my contacts counsel that small is good. A commercial edition, or a university press edition, are possible at a later date, perhaps in tandem with a new edition of the Dial Press version, or with both versions. You would retain full copyright and merely give Sligo Press one-time permission for the limited edition. I guess there is something to be said for a 40th anniversary edition of the novel.

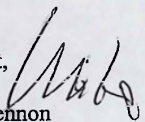
Timing: It will take at least until early 2004 to do all this, and could be delayed longer if you wish. But I assume one year will be long enough to wait after *The Spooky Art*, and that Ann Godoff will have no reservations. I'm sure you will want to discuss with Andrew Wylie.

Finally, the letters will be a good stalking horse for a later edition of your selected letters, the one I have worked on over the past two summers. You are a prolific and brilliant correspondent; I think you will be amazed at the merit of your (usually) spontaneous epistles.

I hope we can talk about this when we are back in Provincetown for Thanksgiving. How about letting us take you to dinner after Thanksgiving? Stephen Lennon might be with us.

All Best,

Mike Lennon

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lennon', written over the printed name.

ENGLISH 397: NORMAN MAILER SEMINAR (With Permission of Instructor)

Spring 2003 J. M. Lennon Mondays, 6:30-10:00

Tel: 408-4522 email: lennon@wilkes.edu

Description: This seminar class will read and analyze the major narrative writings of Norman Mailer. The most important critical approaches to his work will also be considered, as well as some biographical studies. A number of short critical papers and a long research paper will be required. The following narratives will be read by all students: *The Naked and the Dead* (1948), *Advertisements for Myself* (1959), *An American Dream* (1965), *The Armies of the Night* (1968), *The Fight* (1975), *The Executioner's Song* (1979), *Ancient Evenings* (1983), *Harlot's Ghost* (1991), *Oswald's Tale* (1997), and selections from *The Time of Our Time* (1998) and *The Spooky Art: Some Thoughts on Writing* (2003).

A special feature of the course will be the use of primary materials—holograph manuscripts, typescripts, galleys, research notes and many letters—from the Norman Mailer Archive, which is housed at Diversified Technologies in West Pittston, PA. Students will work to produce a limited edition of Mailer's letters surrounding the publication of *An American Dream*, which appeared first in serial form in *Esquire* in 1964 and, after revision, in book form the following year. This feature of the course will require extra time and professional care. The course, therefore, is open only to upper division English majors (maximum of 12) willing to take on such responsibility and the concomitant effort, including some out-of-class meetings

Interested students should contact Dr. Lennon (Kirby Hall 106) to discuss enrollment in the course before pre-registration.